Our Rat Catcher is now servicing 5 of these 9 farms with good results.

The 130 complaints we received during the year related to minor infestations. Premises treated were:-

351 private houses

17 business premises

15 council properties

Sewers were treated once during the year but with no very striking results. We have never found evidence of serious rat infestation in the sewerage sytem.

SWIMMING POOL.

The filtration and chlorination plant at the sea water swimming pool at Manor House was inspected at intervals during the summer season. The pool has a capacity of 268,000 gallons and the water circulates once every 12 hours passing through a sand filter and a chlorinator and thence via the aerator back to the shallow end of the tank. The water usually shows 0.4 parts per million chlorine on a colour test. 4 samples were taken during the year all showing a high standard of bacteriological purity.

PUBLIC HEALTH SHELLFISH REGULATIONS 1934.

Whelks are obtained from Cobbold's Point and Shingle Street and are sent in considerable quantities to London. None is obtained from grounds liable to pollution. The whelks are cooked before despatch to market. Winkles can be obtained from the estuary of the Orwell where pollution is possible but they are not gathered for trade purposes.

DISINFECTIONS.

104 disinfections of rooms, bedding, &c., were carried out during the year.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT GREENWOOD,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

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FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for year

1949.

The Chairman and Members,
The Felixstowe Urban District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1949.

During the year the general health of the population maintained a satisfactory level and communicable disease was not unduly prevalent and such as did occur does not seem to have been serious. The vital statistics are of interest and the very low Infantile Death Rate is very pleasing.

The sanitary state of the town is on the whole good, but, of course, requires continued vigilance.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to both the Council and Officials for their continued trust, help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

Robert Greenwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk.

Miss D. M. Newson.

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General Description of the District.

Felixstowe is essentially a seaside holiday resort and much of its internal economy has been directed towards the promotion of that industry. The natural advantages of its situation are considerable; a long sand and shingle beach facing south-east, flanked by two navigable rivers offers great attraction to holiday makers, while the main part of the town is well sited and offers a good shopping centre for the surrounding area.

Although there is evidence that the site of Felixstowe has been inhabited from very early times the town which we see was largely built within the last century and does not present that mixture of old and new which is typical of many other East Anglian towns. This has its advantages from the sanitary point of view.

Historical remains are comparatively few in Felixstowe. Walton Castle, which in its day must have been an important landmark and is now submerged by the ever advancing sea, was in early times a place of strength until it was dismantled during the wars of Henry II. In the vicinity of this castle Roman remains have been found. The present Landguard Fort, commanding the approach to Harwich, occupies a site which has been fortified for more than 300 years.

A. STATISTICS.

General

Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1949):

Civilian	13,800
Total	14,330

Area of District in Acres	4140
Density of population. Persons per acre	3.4
Number of inhabited houses	4327
Average number of persons per house	3.3
Rateable Value of District	£155,871
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£631

Vital Statistics

1. Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	122	122	244
Illegitimate	6	4	10
			254

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population - 17.72
" " " England and Wales - 16.7

2. Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			5

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population - 0.34
" " " England and Wales - 0.39

3. Deaths (All Causes)

Male	Female	Total
91	111	202

Death Rate per 1000 population - 14.09
" " England and Wales - 11.7

4. Deaths from Puerperal and Other Maternal Causes - NIL

5. Deaths of Infants under 1 year - 3

Rate per 1000 live births - 11.81
" " " England and Wales - 32

6. Other Deaths

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Other Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Acute infective encephalitis	1	-	1
Cancer	17	17	34
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	13	27	40
Heart disease	34	40	74
Other circulatory diseases	5	2	7
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1	1	2
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Other digestive diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	1	4	5
Premature births	1	-	1
Congenitial injury or disease	-	2	2
Suicide	3	3	6
Road traffic accidents	2	-	2
Other violent causes	3	1	4
Other causes	6	6	12
TOTALS	91	111	202

Comment on Statistics.

It will be seen the Birth Rate for Felixstowe is maintaining a satisfactory level and is slightly higher than the General Birth Rate for England and Wales. The Still Birth Rate also compares favourably with that of the whole country.

The Death Rate on the other hand is rather higher than the rate for England and Wales and probably indicates that the average age of the population of Felixstowe is slightly higher than the average of the country as a whole. This is borne out by the table of causes of death which shows that Intra-cranial Vascular lesions and Cancer, both diseases which manifest themselves in later life, were responsible for approximately 37% of the deaths and that Heart Disease which is very frequently a cause of death in the aged accounted for a further 20%.

The Infantile Death Rate of 11.81 per 1000 live births is very satisfactory when compared with 32 per 1000 for England and Wales.

Taken all together the vital statistics support Felixstowe's claim to have one of the healthiest climates in the country.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

The County Council as the Local Health Authority is responsible for the services listed in Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946. In addition the administration of the School Health Service is a County responsibility.

The provision of hospital accommodation and specialist facilities is under the care of the Regional Hospital Board. The local arrangements are more or less as before.

Laboratory facilities are available for bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich, and for chemical tests at the Public Analyst's Laboratory, Norwich.

C. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. Non-Tuberculous.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total 1949	Total 1948
Whooping Cough	1	7	6	11	1					26	8
Scarlet fever			4	10						14	6
Measles	2	4	4	1			1			12	269
										52	284

Infectious Diseases during 1949 produced a total of 52 notifications as compared with 284 during the previous year.

Whooping Cough was notified in 26 cases, spread fairly evenly over the year. It is fairly certain however that this disease was more prevalent than this suggests and many cases must have missed notification.

Measles produced 12 cases and was confined to late spring.

Scarlet fever with 14 cases notified appeared sporadically early in the year and again in the autumn.

Tuberculosis cases on the Register rose during the year from 58 to 66 the greatest increase being among the female pulmonary cases.

MONTHLY TOTALS OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whooping Cough	5	2		2	2	4	7	1	1	2		
Scarlet fever	1		1	1				1	1	1	5	3
Measles				8	2	1						1

Food Poisoning.

No cases notified.

2. Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out at Child Welfare Clinics and in the schools.

Percentage of children aged 0-4 years immunised - 59.88

Percentage of all children immunised - 62.8

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE FOR 1949.

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at 1st Jan. 1949	26	11	15	6	58
Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for the first time during the year	3	-	8	2	13
Number of cases restored to Register having been removed in previous year	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	1	-	2	-	3
Number of cases removed from Register during year	2	-	5	1	8
Number of cases remaining on Register at end of the year	28	11	20	7	66

Reasons for Removal from Register

Removed from District	4
Not Tuberculous	2
Died	2

D. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

No action was found necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

E. HOUSING.

In my report for 1948 I mentioned the magnitude and urgency of the Housing problem in Felixstowe. Unfortunately by the end of 1949 this problem had decreased neither in urgency nor in magnitude in spite of energetic building.

Poor housing conditions and overcrowding are the major public health problems of the post-war period and their solution will help materially in improving the physical and mental health of a not inconsiderable portion of the population.

For a town of its size, however, Felixstowe is fortunate in having remarkably few substandard houses and nothing which could be described as a slum. This means that the problem is not complicated by the need for re-housing "Clearance Areas."

Housing Statistics.

Number of inhabited houses (approx)	4327
Average number of persons per house	3.3

	1949	1948
New houses built by the Council	48	76
Houses built or converted privately	13	18
	61	94

Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31st December, 1948 = 490

Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31st December, 1949 = 624

F. SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL.

	Sunshine Hours	Rainfall m.m.
January	73.1	24.3
February	132.5	23.4
March	116.1	16.6
April	206.4	25.2
May	202.2	43.1
June	247.1	12.5
July	246.5	14.3
August	234.2	27.7
September	169.9	40.9
October	134.2	125.8
November	77.4	54.4
December	62.6	34.6

Average hours of sunshine per day = 5.2

Total rainfall for the year = 442.8 m.m. or 17.4 inches.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

322 complaints were received during the year.

160 notices were served. 159 informal and 1 statutory.

WATER SUPPLY.

1 sample of Town's water was submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and 1 for chemical analysis. Copies of the Analyst's and Bacteriologist's reports are given below:-

Chemical Analysis.

Source Town water from tap in Town Hall lobby - 16.5.49.

Physical Characteristics Faint rusty sediment.

Result of Analysis:-	Grains per Gallon
Free and Saline Ammonia	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0007
Combined Chlorine	3.1
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.96
Nitrites	nil
Total Solids in Solution	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	trace
Poisonous Metals	
Hardness before Boiling (total)	21.4°
" after Boiling (permanent)	9°

Opinion:-

This is a pure and wholesome water in every way fit for drinking and the purposes of a public supply.

(Sgd) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON.

Public Analyst,
Norfolk & Suffolk County Lab.,
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

Bacteriological Examination.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 3 days R.T.° = 1 per ml.
" " " " 2 days 37°C. = 1 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. = Nil.

REMARKS:

Bacteriological findings very satisfactory.

(Sgd) P. H. MARTIN.

M.O. i/c P.H. Laboratory,
5th May, 1949.

PRIVATE WELLS

Samples were taken as follows:-

Girls' Boarding School - 6 samples taken. This school has, for some years, been using a supply obtained from shallow wells which required to be chlorinated. During the year a new bore was put down and a series of samples taken which indicate that the school now has an abundant supply of pure water.

Boys' Boarding School - 1 sample taken early in the year proved to be satisfactory. Later, during the period of drought, the supply failed and for some months water had to be carted to the school. Since then this well has been improved to increase the yield.

Elementary School and Houses in Ferry Road - In spite of the school well having been cleaned out, chlorinated and protected from surface pollution 3 samples taken from it this year proved to be extremely bad and the water still has to be boiled before the children can drink it. The school is beyond the circuit of the water main and as there are 10 houses in this locality drawing water from 7 shallow wells a series of 14 samples were taken, the results indicating that all the wells are polluted except one. The only remedy is an extension of the water main and at the time of writing the matter is being gone into by the Water Company at the request of the Council.

Private Well - 2 samples were taken from a private well in Marsh Lane whilst improvements were in progress, the reports indicating that the well yields a satisfactory water.

Dairy - Using its own deep well water. 1 sample - satisfactory.

Dairy - Using Town's water and water from its own private shallow well. 3 samples were taken. The first was unsatisfactory and the well was chlorinated twice and two later satisfactory samples taken. The shallow well water is used only for the cooler and for swilling down floors, etc., and town's water for the washing of bottles and churns.

Several shallow wells ceased to yield water during the long summer drought, some of them failing for the first time in 50 years and the Council carried water for some weeks to cottages in Walton Avenue and Ferry Lane district besides the boarding school and a private dwelling in Marsh Lane.

FELIXSTOWE FERRY.

This year saw a supply of town's water taken to Felixstowe Ferry under an arrangement sponsored by the Council. Thus an old standing source of complaint was removed and the whole Ferry community, which has suffered from lack of water for so many years, at last provided with an adequate supply.

HOUSING ACTS.

38 informal notices and 1 statutory notice were served under the Housing Acts during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected under P.H.A. & H.A.	79
Inspections made for the purpose	239

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Bakehouses	33
Fishfryers	64
Beach hut sites	30
Stables, Piggeries & keeping of Animals	30
Overcrowding	11
Refuse accommodation	35
Ice Cream	124
Tents, vans, etc.	128
Sanitary defects and nuisances	113
Accumulations	49
Smoke observations	9
Houses re Vermin	20
Cesspools, septic tanks, etc.	46
Closet accommodation	13
Carried forward	1,023

Brought forward	1,023

MILK & DAIRIES ACT

Cowsheds	16
Dairies and Milkshops	50
Samples of milk taken	23

MEAT.

Slaughterhouses	24
Shops	88

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS

Factories	79

DRAINS

Inspected	168
Tested with water	171 ft.
Tested with smoke	16

MISCELLANEOUS

Water samples	35
Shops inspected (Shops Act)	25
Food Inspections	99
Rat Infestations	8
Water supply, wells, etc.	96
Food Preparing Premises	68
Mosquitos	4
Swimming Pool	4
Infectious Diseases	53
Food Poisoning	11
Houseboats	2
TOTAL	1,892

SHOP ACT.

Under this Act the Council are responsible for heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation at shops and the County Council as the authority for the Shop Hours Act for washing accommodation and the taking of meals in shops. In all shops where food is handled for sale the provision of suitable washing accommodation for shop assistants with hot and cold water may be required under other Acts operated by the Council and so far as the writer is aware such facilities have now been provided at all food shops in the town.

No. of shops inspections during the year	=	25
Contraventions found	=	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	35	31	11	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	46	6	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	89	77	17	-

Part 2 of table overleaf .....

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred: To HM Inspector	Referred: By HM Inspector	Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness	9	8	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) insufficient	3	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	2	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	13	-	-	-

CAMPING SITES.

The number of sites licensed for camping under the Public Health Act 1936, Section 269, during the year was:-

Licenses to use land as a site for Moveable Dwellings	7
Licenses to erect vans on particular sites	5
No. of applications refused	1

All the sites licensed by the Council are restricted to trailer caravans only; camping under canvas is not permitted. There is no site in this urban district on which a tent may be pitched, except for such short periods as a licence is not called for, although there is an increasing demand for accommodation of this kind, especially by Boys' Brigades, Boy Scouts and organisations for both boys and girls.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK There are 7 registered cowsheds in the Urban District. Of these 2 produce T.T. milk, 4 produce Accredited and 1 Ungraded milk. Conditions in these cowsheds are generally good.

16 inspections were made of these cowsheds either whilst milking was in progress or to take special samples of milk. The control of cowsheds passed from the Council to the Ministry of Agriculture on the 1st October, 1949, by virtue of the Food & Drugs Act 1944 which came into force on that date.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licenses were issued during 1949:-

Bottler of Tuberculin Tested	2
Dealer in Pasteurised	1
Pasteuriser	1
	4

Powers of licensing and control of pasteurising plants (of which there is at present one in the urban district) was transferred from this Council to the County Council on the 1st October, 1949, when the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, came into force. This Council still retains responsibility for the general conduct and conditions in local dairies and the right to take samples.

Examinations of Milk for Cleanliness.

Samples of milk were submitted to the East Suffolk County Laboratory as follows:-

	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	13	11	2
Pasteurised	9	9	-
Accredited	1	-	1
	23	20	3

Number of visits paid to dairies = 50.

ICE CREAM.

There are 12 manufacturers of ice cream in the district and 32 other registrations for the purpose of sale of ice cream only. Other premises, hotels, cinemas, clubs, etc., sell ice cream though they are not required by law to register. Samples of ice cream manufactured locally were examined with the following results:

Retailer's Code No.	May 1949	June 1949	July 1949	Aug 1949	Sept 1949
	G	R	A	D	E
No. 1	1		1	3	3
2	3	4		3	3
3		4	1		1
4		1		1	
6		1		2	3
7		4			3
9	1		1 1		1
10	1				
11			3	1	
14	1		1		
15	2	1		1	

The Retailer's Code Nos. are the same as previous years. Nos. 5, 8, 12 & 13 ceased to manufacture ice cream this year.

Satisfactory samples = 19
Unsatisfactory samples = 11

30

No. of inspections of ice cream premises = 124.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES (excluding bakehouses, fishfryers and similar premises.)

68 visits were made during the year to food preparing premises, cafe and restaurant kitchens, snack bars, sausage manufacturers, etc. During November the Medical Officer of Health and I made a report on the subject of the sanitary inspections of food preparing premises and the conduct of Clean Food campaigns. It is not possible for a high standard of sanitary inspection to be exercised over food preparing premises in a seaside town with a peak population of up to 25,000 where catering is one of the principal industries and where the staff consists of one sanitary inspector.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

The 5 slaughterhouses in the district have not been used since the war except for the slaughter of an occasional householder's pig. 4 slaughtermen are licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

Carcases Inspected during 1949.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number Killed	-	-	-	-	31
Number Inspected	-	-	-	-	31

No condemnation of carcases or offal were made.

Particulars of food condemned during the year:-

tinned & bottled goods			lbs.
Milk	265	Fish	528½
Meat	53	Meat	371
Fruit	16	Suet	3½
Jam & Marmalade	73	Sweet fat	16
Fish	97	Cereals (pkts)	3
Vegetables	66	Cheese (pkts)	12
Soup	30	Cheese	55½
Fruit juice	4	Margarine	½
Meat & fish pastes	27	Jellies (pkts)	13
Pickles	11	Dried fruit	8
Sauce	12	Sweets	66
Coffee	1		
Dried Egg	1		
	656		1,077

RAT & MICE DESTRUCTION.

The Council have taken advantage of the Ministry's scheme enabling them to exterminate rats at private houses free of cost and claim a grant of 50% of the expense. Trade premises are dealt with on a full payment basis. There are no reservoirs of infestations in this district; the complaints we received (134 during the year) related to minor infestations. Premises treated were:-

279 Private houses
17 Business premises
11 Council properties.

Sewers were treated once during the year but with no very striking results. We have never found evidence of serious rat infestation in the sewerage system.

SWIMMING POOL.

The filtration and chlorination plant at the sea water swimming pool at Manor House was inspected at intervals during the summer season. The pool has a capacity of 268,000 gallons and the water circulates once every 12 hours passing through a sand filter and a chlorinator and thence via the aerator back to the shallow end of the tank. The water usually shows 0.4 parts per million chlorine on a colour test. 3 samples were taken during the year, one being unsatisfactory for some reason not apparent on investigation.

PUBLIC HEALTH SHELLFISH REGULATIONS 1934.

Whelks are obtained from Cobbold's Point and Shingle Street and are sent in considerable quantities to London. None are obtained from grounds liable to pollution. The whelks are cooked before despatch to market. Winkles can be obtained from the estuary of the Orwell where pollution is possible but they are not gathered for trade purposes.

DISINFECTIONS.

115 disinfections of rooms, bedding, &c., were carried out during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT GREENWOOD,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.
8th February, 1950.